

budget that recycles many of the rejected Tea Party proposals from the past. Once again, Congressional Republicans are demonstrating their true priorities: providing massive tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and corporations at the expense of Middle Class America.

This ten year Republican budget is the wrong vision for Minnesota and America. Yet again, the GOP abandons investments that ensure broad-based economic prosperity today and into the future. This budget jeopardizes the health and economic security of our seniors by re-opening the donut hole and ending the Medicare guarantee. Their proposal fails our children by making irresponsible cuts to our schools and Pell Grants, putting the dream of a college education out of reach for millions of young adults. Extreme reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Social Services Block Grant, and Medicaid will inflict unnecessary pain on our children, working families, and seniors. By slashing investments in infrastructure, their budget rejects a proven path to grow our economy and create jobs. Instead, it advances the priorities of the wealthiest Americans—massive tax breaks for the top one percent and corporations, while adding to the tax burden of middle class families and destroying the social safety net. The Ryan-Republican budget is a recipe for American economic decline and increased pain for the vulnerable. It moves our nation backwards and gives up on the American dream, the idea that everyone has a fair shot at success. I strongly reject these misguided priorities and the Republicans' harmful vision for our Nation.

Instead, I am pleased to support the budget resolution offered by the Democrats. Our budget proposal prioritizes the needs of our seniors and middle class families. It strengthens the social safety net, protects Medicare, and preserves the Affordable Care Act to help ensure all Americans have access to affordable health coverage. The Democratic Alternative invests in the needs of our communities and will help create jobs by expanding tax incentives for low- and middle- class families. It makes critical investments in education to help make college more affordable and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed. And it rejects the reckless cuts caused by sequestration to non-defense spending starting next year, while maintaining the funding level requested by the President for defense. The Democratic Alternative is a vision for our country that will keep our communities and our economy strong into the future.

There were also good ideas put forward by the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Both budget proposals would help support the needs of Minnesota families and keep America strong.

The bottom line is that the Ryan-Republican budget resolution increases the tax breaks for wealthy, abandons America's middle class, and punishes the poor. I came to Congress to move our Nation forward. I urge my colleagues to reject this backward vision put forward by Chairman RYAN and instead support the Democratic Alternative.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 51ST ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's 51st Annual Awards Dinner. The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of the region, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the area and the state.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and a healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity, prosperity, and community service in Maine.

The 2013 award winners are: John and Jackie Dalton, Distinguished Community Service Award; Bart Stevens of Century 21 Nason Realty, Elias A. Joseph Award; Shane Savage of Fairfield, Oakland, Unity, and Winslow Pharmacies, Business Person of the Year; Kennebec Behavioral Health, Business of the Year; Darlene Ratte of the Best Western Plus, Outstanding Professional; Maine Film Center, Community Service Project of the Year; Joshua Remy of the Town of Fairfield, Rising Star Award; and Doreen Brown of the Hampton Inn Waterville, Customer Service Stardom Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and the award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM GRAHAME WILKIN III, ARTIST

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Grahame Wilkin III of Aurora, Illinois for his contributions to our nation's Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Mr. Wilkin is currently an art teacher at Aurora Christian High School, helping young men and women learn how to express themselves through art. However, in 1983 when he was a young art student at Glenbard South High School, Mr. Wilkin participated in an art contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

While his entry did not win the competition that day, it would go on to become an image we all recognize. His artwork reminds us of soldiers who were held captive and those whose deaths were never confirmed. His entry was a circle with the black silhouette of a man's face, a guard tower to the left with three supporting crosses, and barbed wire on the right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wilkin for his contribution to all of our veterans and their families.

PASSING OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR LEO BRETHOLZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Leo Bretholz, a Holocaust survivor who passed away in his home on March 8, 2014, at the age of 93. Leo is survived by three children, Myron Bretholz of Phoenix, Md., Denise Harris of Ellicott City, Md., and Edie Norton of Herndon, Va.; a half-sister; and four grandchildren. He was married for 57 years to Florine Cohen, who passed away in 2009.

He was beloved by the Baltimore community who recognized him as a courageous and inspiring individual. He worked for many years as a salesman and later managed bookstores. When Leo retired, he spent his life visiting schools and speaking with people from many diverse backgrounds.

His work with schoolchildren and the positive impact he had on them was depicted in the documentary, "See You Soon Again," which preceded his memoir "Leap into Darkness: Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe" that he produced with journalist Michael Oleskor. Students described him as a "true inspiration" who "never stopped teaching or trying to make a difference in the lives of his students and friends."

Leo dedicated his life to fighting for justice for all victims of the Holocaust. One of Leo's great causes was the pursuit of reparations for U.S. Holocaust survivors from the Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais (SNCF), the state-owned French railway.

Between March 1942 and August 1944, SNCF carried 76,000 people to Nazi camps, including Leo. But, out of the 1,000 people on the SNCF train car, Leo managed to be one of only five people who successfully escaped.

Leo frequently recounted the incredible story of his journey from Austria to France in this train car, when he and a friend forced open the bars of a cattle car to escape the Auschwitz-bound train. Ever since, Leo has been active in telling his story and fighting for justice through educating schoolchildren, lawmakers, and the general public.

Leo often gave the account of an elderly woman also on the train who told him, "If you get out, maybe you can tell the story. Who else will tell the story?" This encounter and his successful escape led him to speak out against unjust laws in his memoir that recounts his experience and successful escape.

In 2011, I testified with Leo in front of the United States House Foreign Relations Committee, about the need for long-overdue reparations for Holocaust survivors from SNCF.

I am proud and honored to have worked with Leo. He truly was a hero. It was his strong energetic force that has truly helped move forward the Holocaust Rail Justice Act, legislation that would provide reparations for hundreds of known survivors, veterans, and their family members living in the United